



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

2500 Broening Highway • Baltimore, Maryland 21224
(410) 631-3000 • 1-800-633-6101 • <http://www.mde.state.md.us>

Parris N. Glendening
Governor

March 8, 2001

Jane E. Nishida
Secretary

Mr. William Wentworth
Maryland Project Officer
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029



SDMS DocID 2055957

Dear Mr. Wentworth:

Enclosed is a draft Expanded Site Inspection (ESI) for the New Jersey Fireworks (NJF) site and the draft projected Hazard Ranking System (HRS) Prescore on 3.5" diskette.

The NJF site is located on Maryland Route 7 midway between the towns of Elkton and North East. The site consists of two parcels situated in a rural area just north of the Elk Neck State Forest. Included as part of the NJF property is the Route 7 Dump site (MD-075) located at the extreme western portion of the property. Past activities at the NJF site include the following: In the early 1900s, the Route 7 Dump site portion of the property was utilized as a clay quarry that supplied a brick manufacturer. During the World War II period, by-products of nearby munitions production as well as scrap rubber from the Bayshore Rubber Plant were disposed of in the former clay quarry. In 1956, Mr. Anthony Fabrizi purchased the property and started the New Jersey Fireworks Company, Inc. and began the manufacture of "Class C" fireworks. Manufacturing occurred on the eastern portions of the property while waste from the production of fireworks was disposed in a pond at the formerly used clay quarry.

In 1976, the company was found to be illegally burning and disposing of waste fireworks, which contained heavy metals, and dumping them in the pond. In 1980, Order C-O-81-076 was issued to the facility by the Department of Health and Metal Hygiene (DHMH) which required NJF to immediately cease and desist from disposing wastes in or near the on-site pond (Route 7 Dump site). On June 19, 1987, Site Complaint SC-O-87-268 was issued to the facility by DHMH in response to the continued open burning of wastes without a permit and the improper accumulation and storage of controlled hazardous substances.

In 1988, NJF was identified by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) as a hazardous waste generator and subject to requirements for generators set forth in COMAR 26.13. Later that year, a draft Consent Order was issued by MDE to Mr. Fabrizi to ensure the proper handling and disposal of controlled hazardous substances

Mr. William Wentworth
Page 2

and solid wastes throughout the facility. However, a final Consent Order was never signed.

After the death of Mr. Fabrizi in January 1991, operations at the facility were scaled down and the manufacture of fireworks ceased by 1993. Operations at the facility currently consist primarily of repackaging imported fireworks.

In May 1999, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) and MDE personnel from the Emergency Response, Hazardous Waste and State Superfund Divisions inspected the NJF facility. The inspection revealed that large amounts of fireworks and black powder were accumulated and stored in an unsafe manner. Additional burn areas identified during the investigation, which were not part of the Route 7 Chemical Dump, prompted the need for an assessment of the whole property.

The toxicological evaluation of samples collected during this ESI has revealed exceedances of EPA-recommended levels of acceptable risk to the exposure of on-site groundwater and surface soil. Based on the exceedance of acceptable risk, MDE has additional requirements for this site.

The HRS Prescore of [REDACTED] is the result of low level contamination detected during the ESI which occurred after removals and cleanup over much of the site during the last half of 1999 and into 2000.

If you have additional questions concerning this matter, please contact Phillip Anderson or myself at (410) 631-3493.

Sincerely,



Arthur O'Connell, Chief
Site and Brownfields Assessments/State
Superfund Division

AOC:pa
Enclosure

cc: Mr. Richard Collins
Mr. Karl Kalbacher
Ms. Patti Davis
Mr. Phillip Anderson